GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2388
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Regulations of Boats
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact fresh laws to ensure safety and security of boats and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes to make safety training as mandatory for boat operators and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act related to accidents, compensation and insurance are made applicable to powerboats and if not, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the Government proposes to make registration of all small boats as mandatory and prescribe the construction standards thereof and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(e) whether the Government has issued directives for vessels of all sizes to be registered with the respective Departments and if so, the details thereof; and
(f) whether any steps are being taken for tracking of smaller fishing vessels entering Indian waters and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a): The mechanically propelled inland vessels /boats are regulated under the existing Inland Vessels Act, 1917 which is implemented by the State Governments. The State Governments also take care of their registration, survey and management of safety aspects. A proposal to replace the existing law with a law with up-to-date provisions has been prepared.

(b): Masters and Engine Drivers of mechanically propelled inland vessels are awardedcertificate of competency under the existing Inland Vessels Act, 1917, after conducting examination which includes safety training aspects.

(c): Chapter−VIA pertaining to "Insurance of Mechanically Propelled Vessels Against Third Party Risks" of the Indian Vessels Act, 1917 provides for application of Section 134, Chapter X, XI & XII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in relation to the mechanically propelled vessels which provides for Inland Vessels Accidents Claims Tribunals such as the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals for purpose of granting compensation.

(d)&(e): The mechanically propelled inland vessels are already covered under the Inland Vessels Act, 1917. The registration and the construction standards are to be prescribed by the State Governments as the implementation of this Act is to be done by the State Governments.

(f): A pilot project on tracking of sub-20 metres vessels/ fishing boats was undertaken by Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships, where boats were monitored and successfully tracked, through Very High Frequency (VHF) link between fishing vessels and Automatic Identification System (AIS) receivers already installed in the National Automatic Identification System (NAIS) network.
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